



**FLORIDA STATE
SPORTS INFORMATION**

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FSU WOMEN'S TENNIS CLIMBS TO HIGHEST RANKING EVER AT NO. 12

The Seminoles move up eight spots, freshman jumps 15 spots to No. 31 in the nation.

Tallahassee, Fla. – Just days after upsetting in-state and conference rivals Miami, the Florida State women's tennis squad reaped their rewards in the form of a No. 12 national ranking—the highest in program history. The Seminoles (10-1, 1-0) jumped up eight spots after their fourth win over a ranked opponent, besting last year's program-best ranking at No. 13.

The new position and its subsequent confidence boost couldn't come at a better time for the Seminoles, who will host the defending national champion Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech this Friday at 3:00 p.m. for their second ACC match-up of the season.

“It certainly makes the girls feel confident to get that recognition being ranked 12th in the country,” said head coach **Jennifer Hyde**. “But I think a greater portion of the confidence comes from knowing you're getting better, working as hard as you possibly can and continuing to improve as the semester goes on.”

Florida State is now the fourth-highest ranked team in the ACC, just behind No. 11 Miami, No. 10 Duke and No. 2 Georgia Tech. Of the three teams, the Seminoles have already defeated one and will face the other two at home before the end of March.

Freshman **Katie Rybakova** (Coral Springs, Fla.) also moved up the rankings ladder to No. 31, making her the seventh-highest ranked freshman in the country. Sophomore **Lauren Macfarlane** (Ogden, Utah) made her first appearance in the polls this year at No. 73 while seniors **Carolyn Walter** (Bingen, Germany) and **Tapiwa Marobela** (Gaborone, Botswana) rejoined the rankings at No. 104 and No. 118 respectively.

“This definitely gives us some momentum going into this weekend,” said Hyde. “But it's still just one ranking period. At the end of the day, the rankings that matter most will come much later in the season.”

In addition to Friday's match-up against the Yellow Jackets, the Seminoles will also take on conference-rivals No. 42 Clemson on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Admission is free and all fans in attendance will have an opportunity to pick up free pizza and t-shirts compliments of the women's tennis team.

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